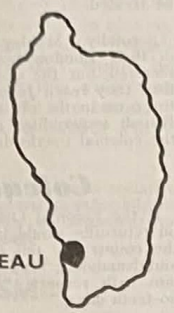
CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

August-September ★ ★ 1955

DOMINICANS WANT BETTER FUTURE

From D. Joseph

AS a result of the 10th Annual Conference of the Dominica Trade Union held at headquarters on Monday and Tuesday, 28-29 March, the Union requested of the Governor an interview to present Resolutions pertaining to Government, as adopted at the Conference.



The interview was granted, and on April 27th a deputation went to Government Office. The deputation included Mr. C. Loblack, President; Mr. D. Joseph, General Secretary: Mr. Vincent Jno Baptiste, Mr. Willis Husey, Mr. Selwyn Nelson, Mrs. Eugenia Joseph and Miss Veronica, Executive Council members.

The General Secretary read a copy of the resolutions numbering about thirty. They included the necessity for:

Implementation of annual holiday with pay, better wages and conditions of employment.
Extension and traffic regulation at Roseau bridge.
Reduction in Government dental fee.
Disconnection of and non-interference between Roseau Maternity and Tuberculosis ward kitchen,

Continued on Page 4

Is Manley an Anti-imperialist?

by Caribbean News Reporter.

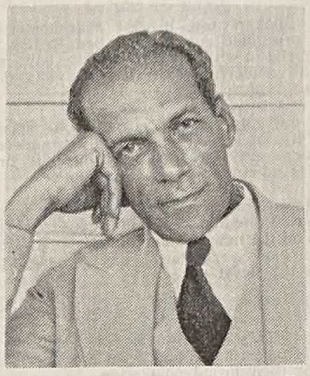
SOME 400 West Indians cheered and applauded Mr. Norman Manley, Q.C. when he declared, "I AM A LASTING OPPONENT OF IMPERIALISM AND EMPIRE BUILDING."

The leader of the People's National Party of Jamaica was speaking on Thursday 14th July, at the Porchester Hall, surrounded by a motley platform.

Manley was rather unkind to the Chairman Dr. Pitt, and the island that he had made his home, Trinidad. He slightingly stated that Pitt ONCE led a political party, and going one worse, alleged that the Island of Trinidad did not seem to take to parties. Who blessed Jamaica or Guiana in preference to Columbus' Trinity?

Addressing his audience of humble but sincere nationally-minded West Indians, who looked with longing pride to West Indian nationhood, the Chief Minister of Jamaica

Continued on Page 5



By permission of "Tribune"

Early Trinidad election hope dim

GENERAL Elections due by Order in Council to be held in Trinidad and Tobago in September at the expiration of the present five-year term of the Legislature may be postponed for another six months.

This action is likely to result from the acceptance by the Legislature on April 15, of a motion seeking postponement of the General Election in September this year.

The motion was moved by the Hon. A. E. James, member for Port of Spain East. The Hon. Albert Gomes, Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, intimated to the House that the Government would accept the motion, but some members voted against, including the Hon. Bhadase S. Maharaj and members of the Butler Bloc.

Mr. Maharaj intimated to the House his intention of resigning if the motion was passed. On acceptance of the motion he handed in his resignation to the Speaker of the House on the grounds that prolongation of the life of the Council by members would be a breach of faith with the electorate. He intimated, however, his intention to contest the resultant by-election.

The Butler Bloc according to the Hon. Uriah Butler, would resign en bloc at the expiration of the five-year term of the Legislature in September.

Supporters of the motion stated that their object for supporting it was to allow the colony to get a new or improved constitution on the basis of recommendations to be made by the Constitutional Reform Committee now discussing the matter.

GUIANA PUPPETS GIVE THEMSELVES PAY RISE

From Janet Jagan

THE People's Progressive Party has launched a signature campaign protesting against the passage of a Bill to increase the salaries of puppet members of the Legislative and Executive Councils of British Guiana.

The members recently voted themselves increases from $160 per month to $250 per month for Legislators and from $300 to $420 for Executive members (BWI dollar).

Their pay increases will be retrospective from the date of their appointment, January 1954. These persons were nominated by the Governor after the suspension of the elected House of Assembly in October 1953.

A storm of protests has arisen over these increases. The Party's petition asks the Secretary of State for the Colonies to annul the Bill and "in the interests of restoring peace and harmony to the colony we demand an end to the Interim Government and an immediate restoration of normal constitutional life in British Guiana."

Detainees

All the eight men released from detention who had been held at the Penal Settlement in Mazaruni are under restriction of movement orders signed by the Governor.

Three of the men, Sydney Kuttain, Sundar Etwaru and Bissoon Persaud, have to report to the police daily. Any neglect on their part means immediate imprisonment. Due to these restrictions most of the ex-detainees find great difficulty to obtain employment. Added to this, those who lived on sugar estates, have been served with eviction and trespass notices by the estate owners.

Ex-servicemen Hit

EVIL concomitant of the emergency regulations in Guiana was the requisitioning by British forces of the British Guiana Legion club-h use for use as a N.A.A.F.I. canteen. As a result 3,000 local ex-Servicemen had only two small rooms in which to meet.

This was brought to the attention of the British Empire Service League at its Conference in London recently by Flight-Lieutenant F. Miller of the British Guiana Legion.

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★ EDITORIAL ★

High Pressure Publicity

ONE of the consequences of the people's confidence in the People's Progressive Party of Guiana has been the increased attention, at least lip-service, paid to social welfare and housing.

The nominated government is now forced to pretend that it is doing something in this respect. Its Public Relations Department is mobilised to put across to the people how much is being done for them; now that their bad, freely elected government of the P.P.P. has been suppressed.

All the deplorable conditions, the backwardness and stagnation seem to be the result of that wicked government elected by the people and holding office for six months.

Yes, the official boys weep crocodile tears for the plight of Guiana.

And Bookers too, biggest shareholder in the highly profitable enterprise called British Guiana, has stepped in with its own publicity boys, showing what a wonderful place Bookers has made of Guiana.

The only fly in the ointment to spoil these idyllic dreams is that these loudly trumpeted cries against poverty are still nothing but dreams—narcotics administered to the people.

Insofar as housing goes, the "Daily Chronicle" tells us that one hundred families are expected to be housed on the new Costello Houses at La Penitance in the city of Georgetown. These houses are being sold on the never-never.

And here comes the rub. Each family will have to pay $23.00 (£4 16s.) per month for a period of 30 years. This works out to £60 a year or at the end of 30 years the lucky family will have paid £1800 for their proud possession.

Remember that the average yearly income of a sugar worker is about £60, the large amount of unemployment and borderline existence.

When further we are told that allocation of the houses was on a points system according to need and **capacity to pay**, we can well appreciate how much is being done for the poor workers.

It reveals also why so much effort and money is spent on high pressure public relations. The conjuror's expression is appropriate. "Now you see it, now you don't."

Emergency costs

THE British Government announced recently another grant for British Guiana amounting to £250,000. This was to cover the increased cost of maintaining United Kingdom troops in Guiana. it does not, however, cover the whole increased costs of the emergency to the local Government.

The Colonial Office feels that "this expenditure is a heavy burden on local revenue and reserves already severely taxed to maintain essential administrative and social services and to finance development."

And, "If necessary, consideration would be given later to the provision of any further assistance of this nature which proved to be needed having regard to the ability of the Colony then to bear the cost of the emergency."

So the big-hearted lions are again making a gesture to pay part of the bill for which they are solely responsible. But then, think how the Guianese are benefiting by having colourful troops doing fancy parades to enliven the Georgetown scene, and outdo even the old Militia Band.

Dominica First

THE island of Dominica is first in the news in this issue, for two reasons.

For the first time this paper brings to its readers a direct news service from that island, sent by a highly responsible correspondent—Secretary of the Dominica Trade Union.

First, also, in that Dominicans have this year celebrated their first May Day ever, showing that West Indian workers are coming more and more into the general stream of international working-class struggle to win the better life they seek.

In this, let us congratulate the Dominican working people, and let all other West Indian workers extend the hand of solidarity to them.

He Who Begs is Given Crumbs

THE Hon. N. W. Manley, Q.C., Chief Minister of Jamaica, has been treated in London like just another colonial underling.

The excitement of his arrival in London—with television cameras, newspaper editorials and reception by the Prime Minister to flatter and encourage—that's all over. What really remains? The homeward trip with nothing in his pocket. Empty-handed the warrior comes home—in spite of all the nice things Princess Margaret had to say when she opened the W.I. Students' Centre recently.

He who begs is given crumbs. Why is Manley coming home empty-handed? Why was the insulting suggestion made that he sit around in London for one week waiting for a reply? Why are Wills Issacs and others remaining in London at the cost to taxpayers of over £200 per week?

This is the view expressed by the Jamaica PEOPLES FREEDOM MOVEMENT after the first half of Manley's visit to Britain.

Firstly: because they are colonials and are being treated the way imperialism thinks colonials should be treated.

Secondly: Manley & Co. might swear and be angry in their London hotel bedrooms at the treatment received, but the Colonial Office knows that by the time they reach Jamaica, they will be quite prepared to go on in the old way bowing and scraping before British imperialism and ready to lick the boots of the colonial overlords.

Colculated Risk

If the Colonial Office really believed that Manley on returning would launch a campaign up and down the country to tell the people how he was treated and demanding "Independence Now," they would treat him with respect. "You can only tek chance wid no-teeth dawg."

If Manley returns and quietly carries on his role of subservience to British Imperialism, the Colonial Office will have won a resounding victory. There will not be an atom of difference from what Busta has done all along: meekly take insults from British Imperialism.

If Manley returns merely to criticise Britain and to try and make "better" deals with America exchanging one set of imperialists for another— then he will be swept into the dustbin of history just like his predecessor.

If Manley returns in a fighting mood to rouse the country and to demand an end to British demination, self-government now for Jamaica, our right to conclude trade agreements with other countries, he will have the support of the overwhelming majority of people.

Show some fight!

Let Manley return to carry out a Socialist policy, to develop a strong internal market, to nationalise the basic industries and to limit the taking out of money by foreign firms.

Only Socialism can develop a strong economy in Jamaica and end unemployment and our dependence on one or two export crops.

Let Manley discard the discredited right-wing policies and stick to Socialist principles—then and only then can our country and its representatives be treated with respect and the pressing economic problems be solved once and for all.

VICTORY MARCH REACHES THE GRENADINES

from Alma Johnson

Secretary,
P. P. P.
of
St. Vincent

THE P.P.P. here again wins in local elections, this time it is the Grenadine island of Bequia in the town of Port Elizabeth. Polling day for elections under a new arrangement for local govermnet in Port Elizabeth, Bequia, took place on Monday 27th June.

The P.P.P., of which the Hon. E. Theodore Joshua is President, won all four seats. This sweeping of the polls on 27th June brought the Party's candidates a total of 1,721 votes, while the nine independents polled a total of 822 votes. The successful candidates are Messrs. C. M. Mitchell, Jafette Samuel Hazell, Casembe Ezekiel Bonadie and Edwin Jeffers Simmons.

Wrong hands

It has been discovered that letters and other documents coming from our headquarters were confiscated by the Burnhamite group of the P.P.P. British Guiana. This was discovered from the fact that we received no reply to our communications sent to the Secretary whom we recognise—Janet Jagan, and also the fact that a postal money order No. W.5 276431 sent to Guiana with an offer to assist the relatives of detainees held in the dungeons of the prison under Governor Savage's interim dictatorship in Guiana, was not received by the Secretary.

Our Party's Executive has requested Jai Narine Singh, who claims to be Secretary of the P.P.P., to return our money order as we do not acknowledge the Burnhamite group of rebels in the P.P.P.

Blind justice

Despite Lennox-Boyd's statement at the 13th Biennial Conference to the effect that Justice would be done to ex-servicemen where Britain owed it to those who served the British Empire in years gone by, ex-servicemen who were shipped away in what has been described notoriously in this country as the abortive Nightingale Expedition of 1920, to the Island of Cuba to find work, have had their war gratuities denied to them. Successive British administrations of the island denied them of their rights. A motion is tabled in the Legislative Council to be debated on 7th July on their behalf.

HEADMASTER IN POLITICS

London, 20th July: Mr .Albert Hyndman, B.A. addressing the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom declared that "left-wing" political parties in the British occupied Caribbean territories were opposed to federation in general.

The ex-Headmaster from TRINIDAD, absolutely charming in presentation, was speaking on the PROS AND CONS OF CARIBBEAN FEDERATION. His understanding of social sciences and political economy was extremely limited notwithstanding claims to successful courses at Oxford University.

The case for the British Colonial Office was presented with much more lucidity and conviction, than any official colonialist could have done. This subservience could well be attributed to the intensity of the difficulties that beset a black man, who attempts to hold a reasonable position in Imperial Britain.

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AT C.L.C. A.G.M.

Labour Party affiliation move defeated

BY a narrow majority of two votes, a Motion proposing the affiliation to the Labour Party was defeated at the 8th Annual General Meeting of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch).

The motion, put by a young West Indian Electrical Trade Unionist, urged the London Branch to affiliate in order to assist in closing the vast gap between Colonial and British workers. The opportunities that would be offered were inestimable, and this view was not only shared, but extolled by the seconder of the motion, a Secretary of a Labour Party constituency organisation.

Opponents to affiliation cited the past anti-socialist activities of the Labour Party leadership, especially in colonial policy and administration as argument to support their case, to carry the day.

INTERNATIONALISM

This was a successful Conference on Sunday 26th June, 1955, with the delegates neatly packed in the Moody Memorial Hall at 3 Robert Street, N.W.1..

Visitors present represented:

(a) Indian Workers' Association (Coventry).
(b) Kenya Committee (London).
(c) Sierra Leone Students' Union (London).
(d) Anglo-Caribbean Social Club.
(e) Indian Majlis (London).
(f) London Youth Festival Committee.

The Annual Report of the retiring Executive Committee was carefully discussed. Members urged the extension of the political education programme, others wanted increased welfare facilities, especially for new arrivals. The sharpened interest in the Caribbean Labour Congress (L/B) after eight years' activity in London, and the moral respect that it has achieved, was a bouquet to those voluntary members who had worked ceaselessly in the interest of West Indian nationhood.

THE FUTURE

Congratulatory messages not only came from members unavoidably absent in Poland, China, and New Zealand, but also from:

1. The People's Progressive Party (Guiana).
2. The People's Freedom Movement (Jamaica).
3. People's Political Party (St. Vincent).
4. World Federation of Democratic Youth.

Although there was a Credit Balance in the Financial accounts, the largest ever recorded in the C.L.C., there appeared to be widespread dissatisfaction at the funds the organisation was raising to carry out its responsibilities. There seems, notwithstanding a praiseworthy report, to be a multitude of tasks yet to be fulfilled that cannot be undertaken without a drastic overhaul and improvement in the fiscal policy.

PEACE

In conclusion, the 8th A.G.M. went on record unanimously on two major matters for all West Indians:

1. A demand to the British Colonial Secretary and the Governors of the Caribbean Territories to permit absolute freedom of movement of personnel, with special reference to those Trade Unions and political leaders who would meet to discuss and decide a common policy for the benefit of all, now that the plan for an Imperial-type, "British Caribbean Federation" is all but complete.

2. Messages for the British Prime Minister, urging upon him the utmost effort for a lasting peace when he attended the Four Power talks at Geneva, and in support of this policy further messages to Premiers Chou En-Lai and Nehru for their contributions at the historic Afro-Asian Bandung Conference.

Elections for the Executive Committee were held, and this was followed by dancing and a tip-top performance by the now famous SONG and DANCE GROUP.

Sugar Domination

TO most people sugar is just the sweet crystals dumped in tea. But to the West Indian, the sweet stuff means in turn a livelihood and a bane, a source of joy and misery, dominating his life and land.

Two-fifths of all West Indians depend directly on sugar cane for employment, while for most of the rest, sugar cane weaves its slender stalks through the economy and social make-up of the territory.

The sweetest part of the sugar cane however goes to the foreign capitalists who thrive on the profits and dividends ground out of the back-breaking labour of West Indian workers.

The story is told in concise and readable form by Billy Strachan in **"The Story of a Colony—SUGAR"** (published by Caribbean Labour Congress—L/B, 9d.).

The sranglehold of this single industry on the livelihood of a people is succinctly drawn through all its connections, revealing the economic control held by the foreign monopolists—among them Tate & Lyle and Booker Bros.—and the close political domination they wield.

The excellent cartoons illustrating the text lend even more vividness to the story.

After all the talk about the "mother country" assisting the West Indies by purchasing its sugar at above the "world price," it is interesting to see that both France and the U.S.A., guarantee to buy sugar from their colonies at about 50% more than what Britain pays for West Indian sugar.

The author points out that the typical West Indian worker in comparison with the British worker, is trying to meet a price index twice as high with an income of barely one-fifth, and gives figures to back this up.

But as he says, "The sugar problem cannot be solved in isolation, but in the whole pattern of our advancing democracy, with social services and national independence."

Yes, the story of the West Indies is the story of sugar.

After reading this pamphlet, it is to be hoped that the author who is Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) will continue to dig into the story of a colony, and give us more pamphlets on various aspects of West Indian life.

Certainly no one interested in the West Indies and the background of West Indian immigration should be without this pamphlet.

* * *

ANOTHER INQUIRY

A Board of Inquiry has been set up to investigate a Wage dispute between the Oilfields Employers' Association of Trinidad and the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union.

Members of the Board comprise Professor H. S. Kirkaldy, M.A., LL.B., Chairman; Captain H. Leighton-Davies, C.B.E., J.P., and Mr. M. Pounder.

Professor Kirkaldy is Professor of Indusrial Relations at Cambridge University, and a member of the Industrial Disputes' Tribunal; Captain Leighton Davies is Assistant Managing Director, Steel Co. of Wales, Chairman of Welsh Board of Industry and a member of Employers' Panel of Industrial Disputes Tribunal, while Mr. Pounder has been National Organiser of National Union of Railwaymen, 1933-1948, Senior Assistant General Secretary 1948-1953, and a member of Employees' Panel of Industrial Disputes Tribunal. (Trinidad Government Information Office).

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

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BOOK WORLD

The Colour Problem

By Anthony H. Richmond, Pelican Books, 3/6d.

INCREASING notice is being given to the colour question. And since West Indians have been coming to Britain in fair size numbers, a new reality takes shape, bringing home to the ordinary Englishman probably for the first time any serious thought of the "problems" of relationship with coloured people. The matter of colonialism also comes home to Britain.

As a contribution to spreading enlightenment on this question, this popularly priced Pelican book should be welcomed.

Mr. Richmond feels that the expression "colour bar" is not adequate to understand the various aspects it embraces. He breaks it down into three categories —prejudice, discrimination and social separation.

He realised that it was impossible to get to the roots of the problem without an examination of the political, economic and social conditions of the countries from which the immigrants came.

He therefore takes the reader in some detail through British Colonial Africa, South Africa and the West Indies.

Much factual information has been brought together surveying wages, health, discriminatory practices, etc.

Mr. Richmond, who is a lecturer at Edinburgh University, denounces the most blatant forms of discrimination and calls for a vague "co-operation" between the races to solve the conflict in Kenya and other areas of British Africa.

With reference to events in British Guiana in 1953, he merely restates Whitehall's account and apparently accepts this as Gospel truth.

One curious observation he makes is that the upper middle-class person in the West Indies, by virtue of his wealth, education and profession, is "often capable of a more balanced outlook and objective assessment of the problems facing the West Indies today."—Then heaven help the West Indies!

In the chapter on Racial Relations in Britain, Mr. Richmond says that one-third of the people in Britain is tolerant of coloured people, one-third is mildly prejudiced, and one-third is extremely prejudiced.

Out-of-date textbooks get credit as one of the chief offenders in creating false stereotypes about coloured people.

Many criticisms can be made of this book, especially Mr. Richmond's credulous acceptance of the official line in several instances.

But once this has been said, the discerning reader will find much of interest in this book.

R. C.

Puisne Judge for BG

THE Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Alan Lennox-Boyd, announced the appointment of Mr. N. A. S. Clare, Resident Magistrate, Jamaica, to be Puisne Judge in British Guiana.

Mr. Neville Adolph St. Louis Clare was born in Jamaica in November, 1900, and was educated at Rusea's Secondary School, Jamaica, and Jamaica College, Kingston. He studied law at Lincoln's Inn and was called to the Bar in 1941. He entered the Jamaica Public Service in 1920 as an Assistant Clerk in the Resident Magistrates' Court. He was promoted Deputy Clerk in 1923, Clerk in 1934 and to his present post of Resident Magistrate in 1944.

ARISE SIR BUSTA!

Billy Strachan reminisces on the occasion of a familiar character achieving knighthood

IT was early in 1948 that I first met Sir Alexander Bustamante. This was at the Caxton Hall, LONDON.

I had waited with other West Indians, Africans, Indians, Michael Manley and Carmen Manley, the wife of Douglas Manley, for nearly two hours to hear the CHIEF.

Finally, he arrived; American Buick motor-car, Secretary Gladys Longbridge and an English chauffer. No apology, no by-your-leave, and the tall carrion figure stood up. Like a basking lizard, he gazed glassily first in one direction, then another. Satisfied that all had measured his white mane, he suddenly shrieked in a high pitched voice, that he was the saviour of all JAMAICA, in fact, all Black People. The careless round of derisive laughter that followed, showed how seriously all this was accepted; then pause (fully 4 or 5 minutes), some other wild phrase, then (7 or 8 minutes) and so on . . . . . .

Supreme egoism

It had to be seen to be believed. But the 400 or 500 coloured and European people who had sat silently soon changed to a heckling inferno. Every Jamaican present tried to assist in exposing this maniac, who by his supreme egoism and ignorance, was the British Government's most useful means of misdirecting our peoples' wrath in Jamaica.

Then, he fled. His parthian shot, "if I had you in Jamaica, you could not have done this"

Sir Alexander Bustamante is not entirely unique. Of a mixed mysterious parentage, he grew up in colonial poverty. He emigrated, he visited Panama, he travelled to the U.S.A. and back again. His own tales take him to Spain and heaven knows not where. Living on your wits, sprung from a rotten colonial environment, where few if any honest opportunities exist, a man develops sharp, self-surviving cunning. Individuals have had to adopt this means, but as has been well proved for the masses, it is suicide.

Corkscrew

Back in JAMAICA, the petty usurer had a wide market and so by early 1938, when the bang went off at FROME, sugar estate that echoed across the Caribbean, the wily Busta beat his chest and started yet another career.

What a path! Through a political corkscrew, the demagogue, fired anti-white slogans, waterfront semi-slave labour rallied and through the streets he marched, right on to the drawing rooms of Lord Lyle, Kings House (Jamaica) and on to Buckingham Palace.

Thousands of ordinary workers followed him. Their hearts, souls and life's material possessions went to him. With them he could have thrown the foreign army of occupation into the Caribbean, not by himself, but all the other territories were astir for revolution. Governor Richards, his predecessor Denham cabled frantically to Whitehall, and the game was on.

Imperialism pulled every dirty trick out of the bag. They smiled benevolently on the cousin Norman Manley; the masses rejected him. He had to outwit the travelled cousin. He had to go more "LEFT." Busta fought like a hungry child, he was Chief. He pulled his pistols in the streets of Kingston, at the slightest excuse, or anywhere else. Playing to his fanatical egoism, the big businessmen encouraged him, and by 1944 when he succeeded at the polls, he was their best friend and one of his first legislative actions was to lift the Excess Profits tax which previously had earned for the national Treasury a quarter of a million Pounds.

Jamaicans yet starve! Ask the latest puppet Premier? Unemployment has gone on to new peaks, only rivalled by consumer prices.

This megalomaniac who still sits in his Duke street office in Kingston, JAMAICA, surrounded by a bigger than life-size bust for a companion beside him. Adorning his desk a smaller one to smile at, and on two walls massive portraits that must surely haunt the beknighted money-lender.

Here is the man on whom Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth the Second of Great Britain and Empire has chosen to bestow the dubious favour of Knighthood.

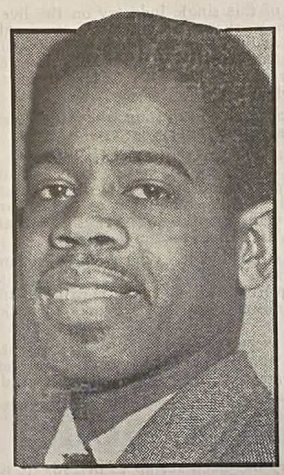
Government Employees Dissatisfied

THE Federation of Unions of Government Employees has informed Government of its disapproval of the Jakeway proposals to the Hands' Report.

Mr. Hands came to British Guiana last year to revise the salary and wage scales for government employees and civil servants. Chief Secretary Jakeway had been asked to make amendments to the Hands' Report which had increased salaries for top bracket Civil Servants while leaving lower paid workers in the same position.

Now the Jakeway proposals have gone even further by granting higher salaries to top-ranking civil servants without improving workers' wages.

Youth say 'We'll paint Warsaw red'



Trevor Carter, Organiser of Youth Committee, C. L. C.

WE'RE going to paint Warsaw red with West Indian calypsos. This was the expression which best showed the ebullient feeling of the 26 members of the West Indian delegation who were going to the Fifth World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship in Poland's rebuilt and beautiful capital.

They left Victoria early on the 27th July, and travelled via Dover-Ostend-Bruge-Nuremburg-Brno-Warsaw.

The Festival starts on July 31st and concludes on August 14th. During those two weeks the lucky travellers will enjoy the best time of their lives—but we shall hear more of that when they return.

The delegation left well equipped to take part in the cultural competitions, with a selection of typical dances and songs from the various territories comprising the West Indies.

In the delegation there is a doctor of medicine, two architects, cabinetmakers, railwaymen, and electrician. There is also a student of music and one of economics. And a member of the delegation is entering his work in the architecture exhibition—a proposed town plan for the city of Port-of-Spain.

The delegation will wear white shirts and khaki pants—the girls will wear brightly-flowered skirts.

Better Future from page 1

and other matters regarding the two wards.

Opening and proper preparation of certain roads.

Appointment of additional Justices of the Peace.

His Honour made comments on some of them he deemed most important, and lengthy discussion followed. Finally he expressed satisfaction and pleasure about the measures adopted by the union. He said in emphatic terms that he was satisfied that the Trade Union Conference deals with not merely trade union aspects, but covers a wide range of activities which in fact deal with matters for the welfare of the community as a whole. He promised to reply officially in connection with each resolution.

After an hour and a quarter all went away with the sign on their faces that the time was well and actively spent, with an aim for a better future for Dominica.

That can materialize, but strongly depends on "social character" of all classes, notwithstanding differences or race, colour, religion or otherwise. The present courses held on co-operation and co-operatives is a notable omen. Let us try and put them into practice, for we all need the help of one another

. . . AND THEY FIND MAY DAY

FOR the first time, the Dominica Trade Union celebrated May Day, the existence of which was unknown to a majority of Dominicans.

At 3.30 p.m. on Sunday May 1st, members assembled at the Windsor Park with their President, General Secretary and Executive Council members. From there they were led in a procession by Peter's Jazz Band through New Street, Old Street, King George V Street and Queen Mary Street to Union Headquarters. The officers and E.C. members wore reddish pink sashes.

At the hall, the President Mr. C. Loblack after his inspiring introductory remarks called on the General Secretary, Mr. Joseph, who outlined the whole significance of May Day or "Labour Day."

He introduced to the audience its origin and significance, as reproduced by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to D.T.C., its affiliate, in 1952.

Workers' Blood

The people were astounded to learn that May Day is celebrated in America (where it originated) for the past 69 years, and that almost all the West Indies has been celebrating it for many years.

Mrs. Phillys Shand Allfrey, Dominican, member of the Labour Party of Britain (now member of D.T.U.), then related her experiences of May Day celebration in England.

The officers expressed their hopes that in future all workers will take part to make the function more successful, but were grateful to see how actively the respondents played their part with much enthusiasm, with banners flying and advertisement cards brandishing, making conspicuous their sincerity in joining to commemorate Labour's Victory.

In his closing address, the Secretary explained that red tie and other emblems worn by many a trade union leader is not a communistic or revolutionary sign as some may think, but symbolizes the blood shed by pioneers of labour of old through tyrannical treatment. Also it is a sign of bravery to undergo the difficulties which are likely to be met.

The function closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

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Trinidad obeys dictator

IN their bolder days, the apologists for imperialism, re-echoed by those few colonials who had achieved some eminence within the system, would point to the political life of the South American republics and ask us to count our blessings.

Today, the Colonial Office has admitted a new partner to control its colony of Trinidad—a Venezuelan soldier-dictator.

Early this May, Lt.-Col. Perez Jimenez deported an International Labour Office official who pleaded that democratic rights be granted to the country's unions. But three months before, in February, the Colonel's long arm had stretched to Trinidad and secured the expulsion of some five exiles, members of the Democratic Action Party, legal government of their country.

Democratic Action came to power in 1947 and, like British Guiana's P.P.P., through the first free election held under universal suffrage. In 1948 at the Bogota Pan-American Conference it demanded an end to all colonialism in the Western Hemisphere. That same year, again like the P.P.P., it was overthrown by force. The army leaders played the role of the British forces, the old cry of communism was raised, unions were dissolved, leaders imprisoned, tortured and shot.

OIL STAKES

U.S. oil investors, like U.S. Canadian bauxite interests, sat back with a temporary feeling of safety. For D.A. had dared cast its eyes on the fantastic profits made from their country's oil—second highest export in the world—and had begun by demanding, and securing, 50% of the profits.

Beginning in 1949 into Trinidad, traditional haven, trickled D.A. party members. Throughout 1951 and 1952, the dictatorship sought to obtain the expulsion, specifically, of Gramboa Marcano, ex-Senator and prominent labour leader. In November 1952 an election revealed continued mass support for the deposed government whose supporters demanded a greater cut on oil and iron ore exports, spoke of nationalising the oil and iron deposits, demanded that refining and milling of 50% of these two exports should be carried on in Venezuela.

In reply Perez Jimenez renewed his pressure on the Trinidad Government; this time the approach was novel.

'COMMUNIST'

The Pan-American Conference at Caracas in February 1954 was to resolve, spontaneously of course, "to fight Communism." D.A. was obviously "Communist"—it had been elected by a majority; it sought to control the profits of foreign capital; it stood for more industrialisation of the country's resources; it was against colonialism. Therefore democratic Trinidad must do its little bit. By March 1954 his plea had effect and the first four exiles were deported, including Senator Gamboa.

By then Latin-American opinion was aroused. The "Trinidad Guardian," the "Trinidad Evening News'" had started a bitter campaign against the Government's action. The deposed president, Romulo Betancourt, protested to the Foreign Office. All to no avail. Governor Rance was being acclaimed on his visit to Caracas. Trinidad exporters were promised a cut in the 30% surtax levied on Trinidad exports.

LONG ARM

In July 1954 two of the exiles embarked on a vessel sailing to the Northern B.W.I. islands, where, Trinidad immigration authorities promised, they would be allowed to land. They were refused at every single port. On their return they were refused permission in Port-of-Spain and lived for four months on the vessel. In November they escaped ashore. For two months they were at liberty, then in February the Colonel's arm fell. They were ordered to leave.

Meanwhile in England two questions had been raised in the House of Commons. "What did the Government know of the expulsion of Senator Gramboa?" a Labour M.P. asked the Colonial Secretary. The Minister regretted that he had no information. Then a written question was forwarded the Minister. His reply was equally unsatisfactory. In April the "New Statesman and Nation" raised the question again. It may be added that according to confidential sources all Venezualan exiles will get their marching orders.

This whole discreditable affair flashlights life in the murky underground of colonial rule, where deportation and banning have long been standard techniques of all W.I. Governors.

It is also clear that, first, a tacit understanding exists between a colonial Governor and leading South American dictator in the dictator's campaign to crush democratic elements. Second, that however "advanced" the colonial constitution, it is the Governor, the Colonial Office, who determine policy as they see fit, in spheres they deem important. Both spell a third danger which all progressive West Indians must combat.

Is our glorified Crown colony of a Federation meant to be rallied, in the name of the W.I. people, on the side of the most reactionary elements in the Western Hemisphere?

What further has been the immediate pay-off for the subservience to the military dictator? So far Trinidad exports still pay that 30% surtax. Perez Jimenez has made a fool of us, the "Trinidad Guardian" says. Restrictions on West Indian immigrants still remain. And to cap it the Little Colonel has thundered that Federation or no Federation, Venezuela will still demand her rightful territories in B.G. stolen by Britain in 1890!

Miguel

ANTIGUAN
bathers making merry at the seaside on Whit-Monday

H.M.S.O. photo from booklet 'Introducing the Caribbean Colonies'

MANLEY from page 1

seemed satisfied to report, what "I" had done, what "I" shall do, and how "I" shall succeed.

He did admit that he and the Colonial Office seemed to think of the same thing along the same lines, but with special reference to the welfare of West Indians immigrating. A harsh admission, that might not have been made elsewhere, but Manley appeared to consider that this audience would not fully exploit this admission.

Arriving more than an hour behind schedule, he spoke for about 50 minutes. There was very little fire in his speech, but any reference to revolutionary changes for the better was extremely well received by cheers and applause.

Question time was 15 minutes. What followed, showed the cynic that his audience were not all the dumb-bells that he had anticipated.

Witty cynicisms

Queries as to whose fault were the deplorable conditions that he had spoken of as "beyond endurance," what policy did he have as a solution, what restrictions did he propose on foreign capital and the exports of their profits, what comment did he have to make on the housing scandal for West Indian immigrants, all bubbled from below. All received their shower of cold water, witty cynicisms on doctrinaire socialism and any excuse that the practiced barrister has used so adeptly on his passage to Her Majesty's Chief Minister in JAMAICA.

Disappointment shrouded these West Indians who had come to listen and to learn. Woefully, some of the more fortunate ones in the way of an academic education, commented to your Reporter, "Oh, he knew he was talking to illiterates, so . . ."

A sad commentary!

Yankee Colonialism

PUERTO RICO: It would be "ruinous" to apply U.S. minimum wage laws to Puerto Rico, Governor Luis Munoz Marin declared last month.

U.S. labour has been urging this to counter the tendency of U.S. companies to run away to Puerto Rico, where the average wage is 50 cents an hour—and some glovemaking operations are paid as little as 22½ cents.

The Weston Instrument Co. was pointed to as an example at a recent Labour Department hearing. According to a representative of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers' Union, the company's lowest wage group is paid $1.66 an hour in New Jersey, while pay at its Puerto Rican plant averages 51 cents an hour or less than ⅓rd the U.S. wage.

GUATEMALA

UNDER the Arbenz land reform, Guatemala expanded its agricultural output and became an exporter of products it previously imported. This happened in relation to corn, rice and cotton.

Now according to "Excelsior" (Mexico City 4/2). Guatemala is once again importing corn—staple of the Guatemalan diet—from Mexico. (From Latin America Today).

CHARGE THAT FAILED

JAMAICA.—A charge brought against Rolly Simms of committing a breach of the Trade Union Law was dismissed by the Magistrate.

Police witnesses testified that Simms had drove up with his car at the Raheen estate and told sugar workers that a strike was on, and that they should demand wages which were due to them; further that if the management wanted the work done they should do it themselves.

Mr. Simms was successfully defended by Mr. Richard Hart. Rolly Simms is President of the Unemployed Workers' Association and is an official in the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions. Before returning to Jamaica early last year, he was a leading worker in the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch).

P.P.P. elections

BRITISH GUIANA.—Preparations are being made by the People's Progressive Party to elect its leading body—the General Council—on August 27-29. Despite severe restrictions imposed on leading party members, 112 nominations have been received, but this number will be reduced when it is verified that each candidate can stand for only one position. The election will be by ballot.

Jamaican papers wouldn't print this letter — —

POST-BOX

BUT "Caribbean News" readily opens its columns to Mr. Ferdinand Smith, President of the Jamaican Federation of Trade Unions, who originally addressed this letter to the "Daily Gleaner," but it was not published:

Editor "Daily Gleaner":

"In your issue of 16th June appeared a news story date-lined Geneva, June 15 (Reuter): in which Mr. T. A. Kelly, Jamaican "Workers' Observer," and acting president of the National Workers' Union, at the I.L.O. Conference, is quoted as refusing Soviet charges that the United States indulged in discrimination against imported workers.

"This I can categorically deny from my personal knowledge," Mr. Kelly is quoted as saying, and then going on to say: "I am in a position to advise this conference that contracts negotiated for foreign workers provide specifically for non-discrimination and that the wages paid must be exactly similar to those paid to American workers for similar work."

I am assuming that the above refers to farm workers imported into America. This being so, one must wonder at the source of Mr. Kelly's "personal knowledge." For, had he consulted any of the hundreds of returned farm workers, he could have readily ascertained truth of such charges. But let a Jamaican farm worker, on the spot, set our N.W.U.'s leader straight:

HUMILIATION

"$2 A DAY—PLUS HUMILIATION!" "A Negro 'off-shore' worker from Jamaica reports only 45c. an hour, less a big daily deduction for food. This leaves less than $2 a day 'send home' pay. He also reports that Jamaican workers are warned against joining a labour union while here in the land of the free. Threatened penalty—immediate deportation! He also complains bitterly about racial discrimination on the plantations—says it's even more humiliating, and frightening than his native British-Jamaican brand." (From the "Buletin" of the Agricultural Workers' Organizing Committee—Houston, Texas, December 1954).

GRAIN OF SALT

Were this the only display of utter ineptness on the part of Mr. Kelly at Geneva, one might attribute it to lack of proper information or an overzealous desire to keep in the good grace of his I.C.F.T.U.'s over-lords, but not so on local issues where this excuse could not hold.

Speaking on the problems facing Jamaican workers at home, Kelly is quoted in the same news story as saying: ". . . the great problem in Jamaica was displacement of workers in industry consequent on the policy of mechanisation."

This, in a country which is only now scratching at the surface of industrialisation, where it is acknowledged by "Public Opinion" the mouthpiece of Mr. Kelly's union, that 400,000 Jamaicans are unemployed! Surely Mr. Kelly should know that the few workers displaced by mechanisation would be but a grain of salt in our unemployment ocean of fresh water?

It is rather strange that a "labour leader" couldn't recognise what, even such empire mouthpiece, Lord Beaverbrook's "Evening Standard" has given voice to, though in a limited way. In one of its issues during 1954 the paper declared: "One out of every four Jamaicans was unemployed—an understatement, "and those who were lucky enough to have a job were chronically underpaid!"

(Mr. Smith here relates how Mr. Greaves Hill, Permanent Secretary and Labour Advisor, had extolled at the conference how free labour was in bargaining with employers and the encouragement given by government to the island's trade unions; when previous to this statement, he himself had written to Mr. Smith saying that the government Labour Dept. would have nothing to do with the J.F.T.U. or its affiliates).

And now, Mr. Editor, to crown it all, in today's "Gleaner" we are treated to a gem, by no other than your own Mr. Fletcher, Managing Director of the Gleaner Company:

"With regard to the colonies for which I can speak (the British West Indies), most of these anti-colonial speeches are complete nonsense, projecting total wrong facts and wrong conceptions. We are not down-trodden; we are not exploited in the sense suggested; we are not oppressed; we are not enslaved; we are not subjected to any form of political, economic or other tyranny. We are happy . . . "!

So says the employer's representative to the I.L.O.'s Conference.

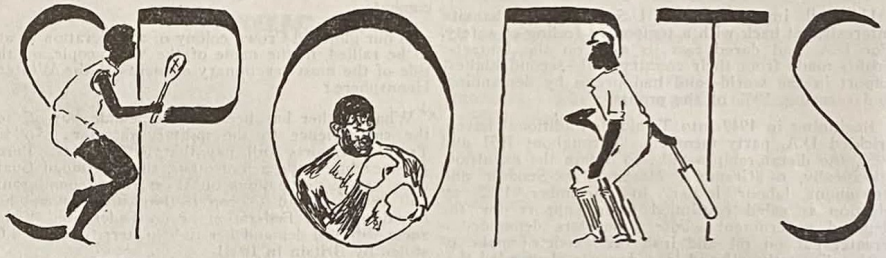
WE ARE NOT

Shall we call on the "Standard" to answer all these, "We are nots?" In a leading article headed: "Squalor in the Sun," as quoted in the "Star" of 21/4/54, the "Evening Standard's" writer described Britain's policy toward Jamaica as: "A shameful catalogue of neglect." Continuing, the writer referred to Jamaica as: "That unhappy island," if things are bad for Jamaicans in Britain, "they are definitely worse for Jamaicans in their own island. . . "

UP TO DATE

It is quite understandable why these "representatives"—Messrs Kelly, Hill and Fletcher, adopted the line they did at Geneva. Imperialism's mid-Twentieth Century approach toward maintaining their dominance over those they would continue to oppress and exploit is to create and develop a class of "native" with whom they "can work," in their game of imperialist domination.

(Signed) Ferdinand C. Smith.



West Indian Adventure

I'VE just come across a most interesting book that I think all West Indian sport lovers should read. It is E. W. Swanton's book, **"West Indian Adventure,"** published in this edition by the Sportsman's Book Club, and originally published by Museum Press Ltd. The author is of course the well-known cricket commentator popular the world over.

He gives a comprehensive report on the 1953-54 England v. West Indies cricket tournament, the series ending in a draw. West Indies won the first two tests in Jamaica and Barbados, while England won in British Guiana, drew the fourth in Trinidad, and won the fifth in Jamaica.

Something I found interesting was that the author pointed out that on many occasions the cricketing spirit and carnival atmosphere common to West Indian cricket were hampered both by the attitude of English players towards the West Indian people on and off the playing field, and the anger fomenting role played by the press in the West Indies and England.

Swanton stated clearly that never in the history of an English touring side had so much harm been done to English cricket and the so-called mother country.

From this we can see that instead of the tour serving the purpose of bringing about a better understanding between Master and Slave, it disclosed the wolf in sheep's clothing.

E. W. Swanton is a very fair and reasonable critic in the cricketing world. He said the West Indian players, barring one incident, maintained a conduct and discipline worthy of test players.

That incident was when an umpire gave a young player out caught and he hesitated to move towards the pavilion, and was later sent back by his captain to apologise to the umpire.

Swanton said that of the eight umpires, six of them, judging by the evidence of this tour, would be welcome in the first-class list in England, nor he thinks there are two better umpires anywhere than Ewart and Burke.

Carlton Bayley

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